

GENERAL ORDERS,

No. 15.

WAR DEPARTMENT,

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,

Washington, May 4, 1861.

The President of the United States having called for a Volunteer Force to aid in the enforcement of the laws and the suppression of insurrection, and to consist of thirty-nine Regiments of Infantry and one Regiment of Cavalry, making a minimum aggregate of thirty-four thousand five hundred and six officers and enlisted men, and a maximum aggregate of forty-two thousand and thirty-four officers and enlisted men, the following plan of organization has been adopted, and is directed to be printed for general information :

PLAN OF ORGANIZATION.

Of the Volunteer Forces called into the service of the United States by the President.

The volunteers called into service under the proclamation of the President of the United States dated the third day of May, 1861, will be subject to the laws and regulations governing the Army of the United States, and the proportion and organization of each arm will be as follows :

1. INFANTRY.

Thirty-nine Regiments of Volunteer Infantry will be raised. Each Regiment will consist of ten companies, and each company will be organized as follows :

Minimum.

1 Captain.
1 First Lieutenant.
1 Second Lieutenant.
1 First Sergeant.
4 Sergeants.
8 Corporals.
2 Musicians.
1 Wagoner.
64 Privates.

Maximum.

1 Captain.
1 First Lieutenant.
1 Second Lieutenant.
1 First Sergeant.
4 Sergeants.
8 Corporals.
2 Musicians.
1 Wagoner.
82 Privates.

83 Aggregate.

101 Aggregate.

The commissioned officers of the company will be appointed by the Governor of the State furnishing it, and the non-commissioned officers, until the company shall be embodied in a Regiment, will be appointed by the Captain; afterwards by the Colonel, on recommendation of the Captain.

Each Regiment will be organized as follows:

Minimum.	Maximum.
830 company officers and enlisted men.	1,010 company officers and enlisted men.
1 Colonel.	1 Colonel.
1 Lieutenant Colonel.	1 Lieutenant Colonel.
1 Major.	1 Major.
1 Adjutant, (a Lieutenant.)	1 Adjutant, (a Lieutenant.)
1 Regimental Q. M., (a Lieut.)	1 Regimental Q. M., (a Lieut.)
1 Assistant Surgeon.	1 Assistant Surgeon.
1 Sergeant Major.	1 Sergeant Major.
1 Regimental Q. M. Sergeant.	1 Regimental Q. M. Sergeant.
1 Regimental Commis'y Serg't.	1 Regimental Commis'y Serg.
1 Hospital Steward.	1 Hospital Steward.
2 Principal Musicians.	2 Principal Musicians.
24 Musicians for Band.	24 Musicians for Band.
<hr/> 866 Aggregate. <hr/>	<hr/> 1,046 Aggregate. <hr/>

The field officers of the Regiment will be appointed by the Governor of the State which furnishes the Regiment.

The Adjutant and Regimental Quartermaster will be selected from the company officers of the Regiment by the Colonel, and may be reassigned to companies at his pleasure.

The non-commissioned staff will be selected by the Colonel from the non-commissioned officers and privates of the Regiment, and the vacancies so created will be filled by appointment, as is prescribed above.

2. CAVALRY.

One Regiment of Volunteer Cavalry will be raised, and will consist

of four, five, or six squadrons. Each squadron will consist of two companies, and each company will be organized as follows :

Minimum.	Maximum.
1 Captain.	1 Captain.
1 1st Lieutenant.	1 1st Lieutenant.
1 2d Lieutenant.	1 2d Lieutenant.
1 1st Sergeant.	1 1st Sergeant.
1 Company Q. M. Sergeant.	1 Company Q. M. Sergeant.
4 Sergeants.	4 Sergeants.
8 Corporals.	8 Corporals.
2 Buglers.	2 Buglers.
2 Farriers and Blacksmiths.	2 Farriers and Blacksmiths.
1 Saddler.	1 Saddler.
1 Wagoner.	1 Wagoner.
56 Privates.	72 Privates.
<hr/> 79 Aggregate.	<hr/> 95 Aggregate.
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Volunteer cavalry may be mustered into the service by companies or squadrons.

When two squadrons shall have been received, a Lieutenant Colonel will be appointed to their command ; and when two more squadrons shall have been received, a Colonel and Major will be appointed, and the four squadrons will be organized into a Regiment. Two additional squadrons may be mustered into the Regiment without affecting the organization of its Regimental Field and Staff.

For the Regiment there will be—

- 1 Colonel,
- 1 Lieutenant Colonel,
- 1 Major,
- 1 Adjutant, (a Lieutenant,)
- 1 Regimental Quartermaster,
- 1 Assistant Surgeon,

- 1 Sergeant Major,
- 1 Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant,
- 1 Regimental Commissary Sergeant,
- 1 Hospital Steward,
- 2 Principal Musicians,
- 16 Musicians for Band.

And the minimum aggregates will be—

If the Regiment consists of four squadrons.....	660
If the Regiment consists of five squadrons.....	818
If the Regiment consists of six squadrons	976

And the maximum aggregate will be—

If the Regiment consists of four squadrons.....	788
If the Regiment consists of five squadrons.....	978
If the Regiment consists of six squadrons	1,168

All officers of Volunteer Cavalry will be appointed and selected in the same manner as Infantry officers of like rank.

3. GENERAL ORGANIZATION.

This force will be organized into three Divisions of from three to four Brigades.

Each Brigade will consist of four Regiments and

- One Brigadier General,
- One Aide-de-Camp, (a Lieutenant,)
- One Assistant Adjutant General, (a Captain,)
- One Surgeon,
- One Assistant Quartermaster, (a Captain,)
- One Commissary of Subsistence, (a Captain.)

All of the above officers will be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, except the Aide-de-Camp, who will be selected by the Brigadier General from the Company Officers, and who may be reassigned to his company at the pleasure of the Brigadier General.

Each Division will consist of three or more Brigades, and of
One Major General,

Two Aides-de-Camp, (Captains or Lieutenants,)

One Assistant Adjutant General, (a Major.)

The above officers will be appointed and selected as prescribed above for the additional Officers of a Brigade.

4. MEMORANDUM.

The officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates, organized as above set forth, will, in all respects, be placed on the footing, as to pay and allowances, of similar corps of the Regular Army: *Provided*, That their allowances for clothing shall be \$2 50 per month for Infantry, and \$3 per month for Cavalry, and that each non-commissioned officer, private, musician, and artificer of Cavalry shall furnish his own horse and horse equipments, and shall receive 50 cents per day for their use and risk, except that, in case the horse shall become disabled, or shall die, the allowance shall cease until the disability be removed, or another horse be supplied. Every Cavalry Volunteer, who shall not keep himself provided with a serviceable horse, shall serve on foot.

Every volunteer non-commissioned officer, private, musician, and artificer, who enters the service of the United States under this plan, shall be paid at the rate of 50 cents, and if a Cavalry Volunteer, 25 cents additional in lieu of forage, for every 20 miles of travel from his home to the place of muster—the distance to be measured by the shortest usually travelled route—and when honorably discharged, an allowance, at the same rate, from the place of his discharge to his home, and, in addition thereto, the sum of one hundred dollars.

Any volunteer who may be received into the service of the United States under this plan, and who may be wounded or otherwise disabled in the service, shall be entitled to the benefits which have been or may be conferred on persons disabled in the regular service; and the legal heirs of such as die or may be killed in service, in addition to all arrears of pay and allowances, shall receive the sum of one hundred dollars.

The Bands of the Regiments of Infantry and of the Regiment of Cavalry will be paid as follows: one-fourth of each will receive the pay and allowances of Sergeants of Engineer soldiers; one-fourth,

those of Corporals of Engineer soldiers ; and the remaining half, those of privates of Engineer soldiers of the 1st class.

The Wagoners and Saddlers will receive the pay and allowances of Corporals of Cavalry.

The Regimental Commissary Sergeant will receive the pay and allowances of a Regimental Sergeant Major. The Company Quartermaster Sergeant, the pay and allowances of a Sergeant of Cavalry.

There will be allowed to each Regiment one Chaplain, who will be appointed by the Regimental Commander on the vote of the Field Officers and Company Commanders, on duty with the Regiment at the time the appointment is to be made. The Chaplain so appointed must be a regularly ordained Minister of some Christian denomination, and will receive the pay and allowances of Captain of Cavalry.

5. PROMOTION FROM THE RANKS.

Two-thirds of the Company Officers of the Regiments to be raised under this plan will be appointed at the commencement of the organization of each Regiment, and the remaining one-third, when the Regiment shall have its full complement of men, will be appointed from the ranks, to be taken from among the Sergeants on the recommendation of the Colonel of the Regiment, approved by the General commanding the Brigade.

After the completion of the organization of a Regiment of Cavalry or Infantry, one-half of all the vacancies which may occur in the lowest grade of commissioned officers, by promotion or otherwise, will be appointed as above, from the ranks.

Corporals will be taken from the Privates ; Sergeants from Corporals.

The First Sergeant will be taken from the other Sergeants of the Company by the Captain.

The Regimental non-commissioned staff will be appointed from the Sergeants of the Regiment by the Colonel.

6. RECAPITULATION.

	Minimum.	Maximum.
39 Regiments of Infantry	33,774	40,794
1 Regiment of Cavalry	660	1,168
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	34,434	41,962
Brigade Staff	60	60
Division Staff	12	12
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Aggregate	34,506	42,034
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BY ORDER :

L. THOMAS.

Adjutant General.

OFFICIAL.

Assistant Adjutant General.